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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/27/2016 TAGS: <u>PREL PGOV KDEM KPAO PTER EI</u>

SUBJECT: IRISH TO JOIN EU STATEMENT ON SHRINE BOMBING

REF: SECSTATE 28802

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Jonathan S. Benton for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C ) On February 23, Pol/Econ Chief delivered reftel demarche to Stephen Dawson, DFA First Secretary for the Middle East. Dawson said that Minister of State Noel Treacy condemned the bombing at a meeting of the parliament's subcommittee on Europe. Dawson added that the Irish stood behind the EU's statement, and were not planning to issue a separate one. He took on board the request to consider helping to fund the shrine's re-construction. He said there had not yet been discussion within the GOI of such funding but that the GOI would now consider the U.S. request. KENNY